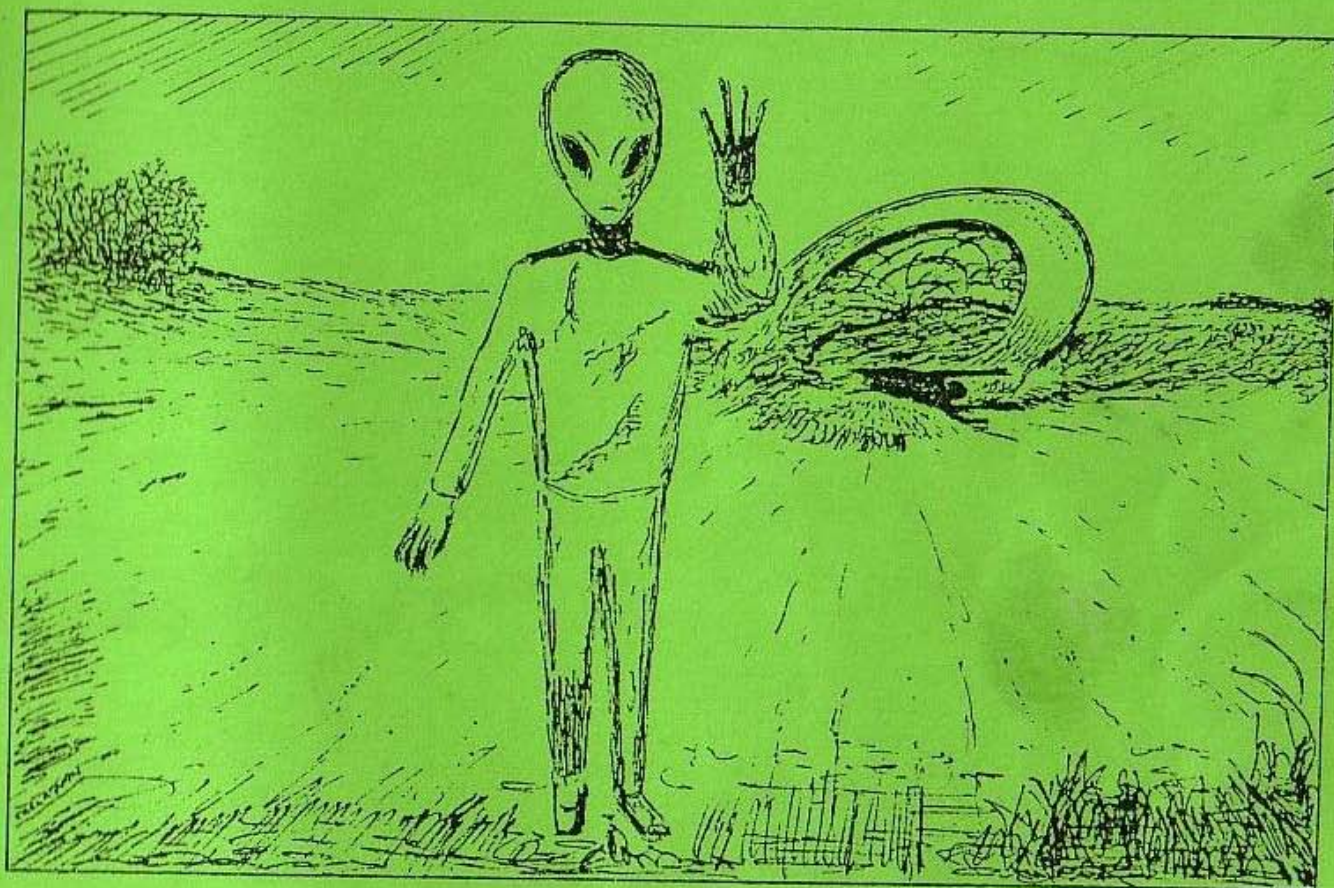


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

175

AUTUMN 1996



EDITOR: JENNY RANDLES COVER DESIGN: BILL CALLAGHAN

Address: 11 Pike Court Fleetwood Lancashire FY7 8QF

Subscription rate £7 for 6 issues (payable to 'Northern UFO News')

Contents: pp 2 - 4 Were aliens recovered in British UFO crash?...p.4 UFO Oscars (your chance to win a new and to be coveted UFO award)...pp 5 - 6 News round up (tragic UFO losses, NSA files released, MIB hoax, free UFO book offer and more)...p.6 MoD change rules about UFO files...pp 6 - 7 Nick Pope - hero or villain? pp 8 - 9 HALO and goodbye (all the latest news on Lancashire's flying triangle mystery) p.10 Circular Logic...pp 10 - 12 Reviews (*UFO - a deadly concealment*, *The Paranormal & The ghost of flight 401*) p.12 New Welsh Wonders from Margaret Fry ...pp 13 - 15 Cases from Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside, Scotland, Wales & West Midlands - including umbilical cord UFOs, anniversary triangle & UFO crash over Wigan...p.16 Have you heard the Voice? plus autumn events.

JR Comments...

Another issue - another apology. So what's new. This time it is just to explain the haste with which this edition has been put together. We sold our house just as I was about to get started and the purchasers requested a super-fast move - like get out by last Thursday... So I knew that if I did not get a wriggle on with this copy it might be weeks before all my files surfaced from the crates and boxes so thoughtfully provided by the removals company. So it was full steam ahead and little time to check for spelling mistakes - which of course I doo knot mayke enywhew. The new address will be given out with the next issue (which I plan to have to you in time for Christmas! - note I did not say which one). In the meantime, of course, the (t)rusty Royal Mail assure me that all your communications will be redirected to my new abode from Fleetwood (via Katmandu). So fear not.

As you know I love the media. They are my greatest friends. (Note for new readers - my humour can be a tad sarcastic). So I was intrigued to find my phone ringing hot the other day from TV stations worldwide. After two from Germany and one from LA I stopped counting. Then I switched the phone off.

What was the source of this new found fame? The alien bodies captured from a crashed spaceship at Llandrillo, Clwyd, it seems.... The, er, what? - you might ask, as I did. Then the full story dribbled out.

You may recall this case. I first wrote about it in NUN 20 years ago and there's a discussion in *UFO Reality*, published in 1983. A fuller account followed last year in *UFO Retrievals*, thanks to some new work by Margaret Fry - which first appeared in her Welsh Wonders column in NUN.

The incident occurred in January 1974 when strange lights were seen from this small Welsh village not far from Lake Bala. They lit up the top of a mountain and there was also an explosion and earth-shaking considered to be a tremor (it was even recorded on seismographs at Edinburgh). That would have been the end of the matter had not the RAF behaved very oddly indeed. They scoured the mountain for several days searching for what they said was a meteor - that is to say, not an old RAF plane, but a lump of rock from space (and so, strictly, a meteorite).

It did seem peculiar that the RAF should be so interested in a rock. But the very brief TV and press stories on the matter were

very quickly killed off by this revelation, followed swiftly by the news that the search had been fruitless and so not even this lump of rock had been found. Hardly surprising if you see the desolation up there.

Frankly, the story seemed of minimal interest. There was some speculation in UFOlogy about earthquake lights. Tony Pace, then BUFORAs research officer, was the first to do this and Paul Devereux picked up on the matter years later and linked it to earthlights. He also added a fascinating note about a scientist who took some readings on the mountain (Cader Bronwen) a week or so afterward and got unusual high radioactivity. Indeed this was one of the triggers for subsequent investigations at stone circle sites as the scientist was at such a site up on the remote mountain when he got these readings.

In 1975 the mysterious secret society APEN started to send reports to selected UFOlogists (myself included) claiming that a UFO had landed on the mountain, aliens had got out and contacted a retired army officer who lived there. The obliging ETs had even given said officer APEN's ex directory phone number and told him to speak only to them! Needless to say few people took such APEN ravings very seriously (although we never found out who these weirdos were) and the Llandrillo story was quietly forgotten - until 1978 when fate lent a hand.

My then new boyfriend's father just happened to have moved his caravan to a site - by the River Dee at this village called Llandrillo. During the next couple of years Paul and I spent many happy weeks there. We climbed the mountain, talked to locals in the pub and pretty much established that an interesting event had occurred. I just assumed it was a low grade earthlight. I even saw a misty light myself from the caravan and wrote to Paul Devereux about it. I did not pursue the case as vigorously as I really should have done whilst I was regularly visiting the area. Hindsight teaches many things of course, but at the time the case seemed like no big deal.

Years later, when Margaret moved to Wales some miles away she started to pick up masses of UFO sightings from Clwyd. Some referred to that night in January 1974 when all hell broke loose on that mountain. Being an adopted native of Wales herself now, Margaret gradually won the confidence of a people notoriously unwilling to talk to outsiders - especially hostile invaders from England. This opportunity led to major new revelations about the case.

Suddenly we heard about the hotel in Bala filled that week by suits from London who spent all day on the mountain but never spoke about what they were doing. Of the farmers prevented from tending their flocks during the RAF search. Of the nurse who went up there to assist with what she assumed was a plane crash to see a strange UFO on the moor.

When I wrote *UFO Retrievals* and lectured about the case at the FT Unconvention in London last year there were two possibilities in my mind about what might have happened. Of course, a real UFO may have crashed and been retrieved. But equally the object could have been something that the RAF did not want us to find out about - and for which the 'just a meteorite' story served as perfect cover. Something for which all the locals would have to be kept off the mountain (had it really been a meteorite farmers would surely have been a help in the search). An event for which MoD bigwigs had to rush to the area in top secret. Shades of Roswell.

From the caravan Paul and I had often seen and heard RAF jets scream low overhead on practice flights from Valley and Shawbury. In 1988 Peter Hough and I had lectured to the officers mess at Shawbury and it was a delightful evening of UFO info. Two things were curious, however. One bigwig from the RAF - upon hearing of our coming lecture - requisitioned a plane and flew there from Valley just to hear us. He kept himself to himself all night. Also I was struck by the deathly silence that greeted just one thing I mentioned that evening - the Llandrillo affair.

This led me to muse that perhaps a nuclear weapon had been involved in a military accident of some sort and this was understandably creating mass panic in Whitehall. Hence the cover up.

At my 1995 FT lecture I had another surprise. This came from the science editor of a respected national newspaper who told me quietly after hearing my words on Llandrillo that he had been sent 'to the same part of Wales' a couple of years before, because a local GP had reported a dramatic rise in childhood cancers that had been occurring in the area over the previous 20 years. The doctor, not being one to take UFOs seriously (if indeed he even knew about the 1974 Llandrillo affair - which I doubt) had reasonably concluded that some sort of radiation leak from the nuclear power station at Trawsfynydd must be the cause. The reporter had investigated, found no problems with that place (since closed down) and the story was quietly dropped.

But - the man now told me, mildly curious - what if there was another potential source of radiation that had begun out there about 20 years ago. What indeed.

And so to September 1996 and this sudden flood of media calls about alien bodies and starships. What the heck was that all about? I had written an article about the Llandrillo case in the August issue of the newstand magazine - *SIGHTINGS*. In this I had, of course, speculated about the nuclear weapon leaking radiation theory and explained the UFO genesis of this case. But I had said nothing about alien bodies.

By the third call from a TV station wanting me to go to Wales to film interviews I asked where they had heard about the case and how they had my unlisted number? The Daily Star, told us I was advised. The 'facts' were from an article about you last Monday'.

As I had not spoken with anybody from that paper (or indeed any journalist about Llandrillo) I had to check it out. There was indeed an article proclaiming the 'crashed spaceship and dead aliens' story - with not only my name attached, but the news that at the Quest conference in Leeds the previous weekend it had surfaced that the Yorkshire group had made a big discovery. An anonymous source had come to them and exclusively revealed that the object on the mountain was definitely a spaceship, dead aliens had been recovered from it and ferried in trucks to the secret weapons site at Aldermaston. This mystery man saw them.

Now, we must trust Quest here, of course, and so assume that the man is bona fide. Where he came from and why he has chosen to say what he has to say now is an interesting question. It seems fascinating that just as I have gone public with the facts and possibilities on a case which undoubtedly hint at a nuclear accident then up pops someone wanting to convince us all that it really was an ET spaceship with little alien bodies.

Not only was the timing of this witness revelation intriguing, but so too was the timing of the Daily Star account. It had a double edged effect. The key witnesses assumed I had blabbed rubbish to the Star and were upset about being associated with alien bodies (which none of them have ever claimed were involved in this case). Friends were ridiculing them after seeing the story and it may well now be that these responsible folk will keep silent to avoid being connected with what they regard as wild stories that could damage their status in this small community.

Moreover, who will take seriously the possibility that a nuclear accident did occur at Llanarillo? The case has been tarnished with the alien body saga and that will switch off investigative journalists from probing further.

Yet - in a fascinating twist - the very day of this new tabloid revelation the award winning ITV investigative series 'World in Action' had a major report about a nuclear accident at Greenham Common that had led to a dramatic rise in childhood leukemia in the 40 years since. The MoD had been run ragged by ITV chasing facts behind their cover-up for weeks and must have been keen to ensure that all hint of another incident was squashed. The last thing they needed was nosey reporters pondering whether Greenham Common was repeated in Wales a couple of decades later. By fortune or design the alien story killed that.

I told all of the TV companies that kept trying to dazzle with me with offers of money and international stardom (they really are that naive!) that I was not about to help the government cover up the truth about this incident by acting as a disinformation agent on their behalf. The stunned replies I got from programmes desperate to sell a 'UFO has crashed' storyline to their millions of viewers had to be heard to be believed.

No doubt these documentaries will go ahead on German and US TV without my help. There will be UFOlogists eager to get the publicity or who really believe that alien bodies were picked up off that mountain. Of course, maybe they are right - this mysterious new witness could well be telling the truth. A UFO may conceivably have crashed at Llandrillo. But I am not about to take that chance, because I think that these games of information and disinformation go on far too often when the MoD (and counterparts in other countries) want to find an easy way to ridicule an important issue.

Unfortunately, UFOlogists are pretty good at acting as pet stooges to play right into the hands of the powers that be.

Time will no doubt reveal who is right about this matter. If a UFO did crash at Llandrillo the truth cannot be hidden forever. If some kind of nasty nuclear accident is being covered up to protect the guilty and prevent the public from learning what they have every right to be told, then one day that conspiracy will also be broken.

Maybe I was right, maybe I was wrong to refuse to play this game. I am, sure you will let me know what *you* think. But I just felt that it was time to say no for once.

UFO OSCARS 1997

This summer the Apollo Tatton cinema in Gatley, Stockport staged a fascinating 'UFO marathon' to coincide with the release of the movie 'Independence Day' (great fun - if you forget about basic physics, like the ability of fire to travel around corners - and they say UFOlogists are gullible!).

The day was a success, with over 300 people viewing the four hit UFO movies and listening to lectures on the subject in between. Indeed, the cinema chain have already decided to stage another UFO day in summer 1997 to coincide with the release of a new UFO movie.

After discussion with the cinema manager, Rory Lushman, we have decided to stage a unique event on that day - the worlds first 'UFO Oscars'. And you can take part.

The idea is to judge the best still and movie/video footage that supposedly shows a UFO, awarding a prize (the Oscar) to the winners. Aside from real footage and photographs two awards will also be given to the best faked or hoax still and video representations. This is to satisfy those who might otherwise be tempted to enter their bogus UFO pictures as 'real'. No need - you have your own category (and, indeed, prizes will be stripped from anyone who enters what is later found to be fake evidence as real in the view of those who judge the awards).

The prizes will be voted on both by a panel of photographic and UFO experts and also with input from the audience at the UFO day - who will get to see all the entrants.

The pictures do not have to be recent. They can have been taken at any time. The only criterion is that the entry form must be signed by the copyright holder.

In order to determine the scope of this competition, what we need to know right now is how many possible entrants there will be within each category. So - if you want to enter your own (or - in conjunction with a witness - their own) still or video footage of a UFO, then drop us a line to give brief details. We simply need to know whether you wish to enter still or moving images and brief details of the format and date/location taken. Also which category you will be entering them into. If you plan to enter the hoax sections, you do not need to have anything to show just now. You have a few months to work at perfecting your masterpiece!

Write to UFO OSCARS at 11 Pike Court Fleetwood Lancashire FY7 8QF

TRAGIC UFO LOSSES

It has been a sad summer for British UFOlogy. In July Ken Phillips died as a result of a massive heart attack just before he was due to lecture to the annual South Wales conference. He was only in his fifties.

Ken's loss is a tragedy for the field. He had worked tirelessly for 30 years both with BUFORA and more recently the Witness Support Group. As an investigator and Director of Investigations with the national group he established methodologies and protocols few could equal. His care for witnesses won him the respect of all who met him. He also edited BUFORA's magazine for a time and created the 'Anamnesis Project' - research that has benefited many by establishing background information about the lifestyles of close encounter witnesses.

Ken was not a name well known by media or international UFOlogy. But he was without doubt one of Britain's leading lights for as long as I can remember. He epitomised the sheer hard work and dedication of which this subject has far too little. I shall miss him a great deal and this country's UFO movement should never forget what he gave to us all.

Also gone from us this summer is a more enigmatic figure from the past - Arthur Shuttlewood. During the 1960's as a journalist he turned the town of Warminster in Wiltshire into the haven for UFOs that only places like Gulf Breeze could attempt to lay claim to today. Media and UFO buffs the world over flocked to the area and today's rash of crop circles in the same region owe a great deal - many feel - to the social history of expectation that was thus created.

Shuttlewood wrote a series of popular books during the sixties and seventies - with titles like 'The Flying Saucerers' and 'The Warminster Mystery'. These included references to what in retrospect appear to have been circle-like events.

However, doubts have arisen in recent years about the birth of the Warminster legend. Recently witnesses whose photograph of a UFO was critical in establishing the reputation of the town have admitted they faked the whole thing. Their full stories hinted that Shuttlewood should perhaps have been more mindful of the problems. Nothing of these unproven claims got published when the witnesses' admission came because of Shuttlewood's fading health and inability to respond. But the debate could re-surface now.

NEWS ROUND-UP

:: *Flights of Fancy* is a new UFO related company in the north-east with some smashing merchandise. Artist Patrick Jackson and UFOlogist Mark Spain have got together to design a range of humorous postcards. One set of eight focuses on UFOs in general (from abductions to crop circles) and another set is all about the Roswell crash. You can buy them for £3.50 per set or £6 for both (post inc within the UK). In October the duo launched a new venture - a UFO wall chart which is poster sized and depicts various shapes and sizes of UFOs. No price was quoted on this but you can get in touch with Flights of Fancy c/o 30 Essex Gardens Low Fell Gateshead Tyne & Wear NE9 5BB

:: *MIB hoax* - that's the solution to the intimidating letter which followed a video of a UFO over Liverpool (see last issue). Soon after we went to press the culprit was found. A 'friend' of the cameraman had sent the letter as a 'joke' ordering him to destroy the film. Understandably, those involved are finding it hard to see the funny side of this affair and the 'friend' is lucky that the police had not been called in before he made his admission.

:: *Andy Collins* - whose new book 'From the Ashes of Angels' will be reviewed next issue - is to act as a guide on a package holiday of the middle east. The unusual venture will involve a ten day trek to some of the mystic sites of Syria and Lebanon. The tour will run in April 1997 and is not cheap (at over £1200) But if you fancy a guided tour of the legendary events of this area then a Chester company is offering that chance. For further details contact Andy Collins at:- PO Box 189 Leigh-on-Sea Essex SS9 1NF

:: *NSA files* - a new batch of data from the National Security Agency has been released following a Freedom of Information Act request. The NSA has been in a battle over release of its UFO files. A 21 pp affidavit explaining why this evidence must be withheld was itself the subject of a court battle and when finally released was largely blacked out by censors' ink. Now we have some more of its pages made public and some of the files themselves. These are disappointing foreign cases from years ago. The affidavit proves that NSA agents attend UFO conferences and speculate wildly about the origin of UFOs.

FREE SIGHTINGS BOOK

'Sightings' - the glossy newsstand magazine has been going from strength to strength. Against expectations in the crowded market place this high quality full colour monthly has now survived for six issues and its sales are apparently going well. At £2.95 per issue or £25 for a 12 issue subscription (Tel: 01626-68611) it has featured a wide range of in-depth articles by leading British researchers and has monthly columns from the likes of MoD man Nick Pope. If you have not caught sight of it as yet the November issue (due in shops late October) is worth a look. It includes a free cover book showing the best visual evidence for UFOs in the past 50 years.

MoD SWIFTLY CHANGE THE RULES

In September it was fascinating to see a report in a highbrow national newspaper telling us that the government have changed the ground rules for the release of UFO documents.

The paper's defence correspondent presented the story as if it were news just uncovered, stating that in future UFO files would be available via the public record office in Kew. Also that the MoD had decided to release on such files the distribution list of places to which the reports are sent. This had previously been secret, but it had now been decided not to maintain this secrecy.

This masterpiece of hypocrisy utterly failed to point out that both of these things were established before 4.3 million viewers on a TV documentary (Britain's Secret UFO Files) which I made for the BBC earlier this year. A documentary which that same newspaper had ridiculed extensively in print as if it were beneath contempt!

Of course, it was irrelevant to the MoD's decision that in that programme I had shown the UFO files at Kew and (with great help from the PRO) the process by which they were obtainable by all. Moreover, that I had put on screen an MoD UFO file that proved how it was distributed not only to Air Staff 2A - the well known department at which Nick Pope and Ralph Noyes had worked - but also to more sensitive intelligence agencies - notably a defence intelligence unit (DI55) and the DSTI. This latter is a department of scientific and technical intelligence and gets twice as many copies of files as Air Staff 2A.

The pretence was impossible for the MoD after this very public revelation, so it is hardly amazing that they have decided not to lie any more. However, I found the attitude of this well respected national newspaper (whom I have not named to protect the guilty) pretty infuriating. To them UFOlogy is nonsense and UFOlogists befuddled idiots. But they print exactly what we proved in that TV programme and it counts as serious news, whereas our demonstration was thought so daft it might as well have been that John Major is from Pluto.

Double standards, or what?

NICK POPE - HERO OR VILLAIN?

It has been intriguing to see the response of both the media and the UFO community to the publication of Nick Pope's book - *Open Skies, Closed Minds* - which appeared this June and is a fine read. It told of his role as the 'Fox Mulder' of the MoD at the helm of Air Staff 2A (1991-1994) and earned him, I think, the biggest advance yet paid by a UK publisher for a British UFO book. It predictably made it into the top 10 best-seller list and Nick has appeared here, there and everywhere in the media. Two separate national newspapers serialised his book and he has been giving lectures so frequently that he must have hardly been at home all summer.

Although I am not reviewing the book, you will not find it difficult to read reviews in the UFO literature. It is interesting that there have been one or two so far that are highly critical. The *Fortean Times* is hardly favourable and the Andy Roberts review in *BUFORA's UFO Times* is very negative.

I read a draft copy of Nick's book shortly before I interviewed him for my BBC documentary late last year. As I said in a brief note in NUN 172 I found it disappointing. My biggest concern was that there was barely a case we were unfamiliar with. Yet the MoD receive hundreds per year - including, one supposes, via military bases. So where was the data on events such as these which had never been made public before? I knew it would be billed by the media as being dramatic new revelations, but, to be honest, I found it to a large degree to be little more than rehash.

Other things worried me. For example, there were references to cases Nick had not himself investigated and about which, frankly, he showed disturbing lack of familiarity. One could not expect him to know everything on these cases, of course. But he seemed to me not as widely read as I hoped.

For instance, he cited the Peter Day film as possibly showing ball lightning - about the one thing we know with absolute certainty it was not. Nick obviously had never read much about the case. Indeed when I challenged him and suggested he set this story right, Nick asked me what the Peter Day film was! I pointed out he had written it up in his book, but he couldn't recall doing so or the source (probably from somebody else's book). I don't know if he did put it right in the draft.

Then there was the report on the Quantock Hills case (widely written up in national newspapers reporting the book). Nick's discussion of this was inadequate in my view, not debating the extensive BUFORA investigation (it was one of the last cases before I got removed as BUFORA Director of Investigations so I know it well). Ken Phillips also did a fine job and we really went to town - having physical evidence analysed by the Geological Museum and setting up an expensive hospital assessment for the witness. The case went nowhere fast, but in no way can one reasonably suggest that we might consider this case evidence for alien invaders. Nothing I ever saw in this affair argued that.

I would not blame Nick Pope for being unfamiliar with UFO cases. But he was not sufficiently aware of the complexities of some of the events that he was writing about. But then, of course, his job at the MoD was not intended to investigate UFOs thoroughly. He was there to review the defence implications.

This book - well ghost written for Nick and a lot better than many appearing of late - exposes the popular myth that the MoD study UFOs more than adequately. Any serious UFO group does a better job than Air Staff 2A - perhaps because the subject is not considered worthy of much time and money by the MoD or because there are departments above and beyond that do the real work.

Unfortunately, because of the hype this book has generated it has created the impression that the MoD knows UFOlogy rather more thoroughly than is evidently the case. I expect this implication is a marketing image by his publishers - but it is not good news for the UFO movement in this country.

Personally, I find Nick a nice guy, keenly interested in UFOs, committed to the ETH for reasons I find hard to fathom, but nonetheless sincere in these views. His naivety about UFOs is not his fault. At the MoD he was just never in a position to study UFOlogy as you and I can do. Cases can take months to research. The MoD had a few minutes spare!

Undoubtedly Nick Pope has seized a commercial opportunity to exploit his former role. But you cannot blame him for doing that. This has had some benefits for UFOlogy, but a number of detriments, too, if people expect more than Nick can ever possibly deliver.

However, I am sure the book was genuinely motivated and not some government disinformation plot. I just feel, sadly, that people's expectations of what Nick Pope is able to tell us about the role of the MoD and UFOs are over inflated. In truth, he knows little more than you or I - and rather less about some aspects of the subject. I can only judge from what he has written.

In the draft of the book that I read last winter Nick told of an incident in Florida before he got the MoD job. It involved passing through a roadway toll booth without paying, the possibility of a time lapse and (what seemed to me) a rather flimsy possibility that this involved an unremembered abduction - apparently this idea being hinted to him by UFOlogists he was then talking with.

This chapter is, I gather, missing from the published book, but I hear that Nick has already written a sequel on abductions so it might resurface there. I wonder if this event could perhaps have subconsciously interested him in the UFO subject when the MoD job appeared; although Nick argues he had no such interest when he later took on the post.

I trust that Nick has familiarised himself with the abduction phenomenon better than with some UFO cases in his first book - for abductions are an immensely complicated phenomenon. The last thing we need is a hyped, yet superficial, treatment of the issues involved. Do prove me wrong Nick, please.

Indeed, I anticipate that Nick's recent association with the UFO field since leaving Air Staff 2A will have been richly educational. He strikes me as keen to learn and will doubtless have picked much up which should help his second book. I wish him well, because Nick is here to stay (at least for the short term) and his massive public image will ensure he is a force to be reckoned with. It is in all of our interests that he champions our cause well.

Unfortunately, the MoD's association with abductions is a bit of a worry. During his Air Staff 2A tenure Nick released 'alien contact' cases on file. I had already interviewed one witness, but that man's MoD letter barely hinted at his adventures with hairy pillar boxes, rescues by furry bird-like aliens, the interplanetary war he was part of, aliens at the local Tesco's, and so on! That's the problem.

HALO and Goodbye Return of the Triangle

Many people have the false assumption that UFOs are shaped like - well - flying saucers. Given that the name flying saucer was coined in error about a UFO that was *not* even saucer shaped, this view does not have a great deal going for it. UFOs have always been of a rich variety of shapes and sizes.

However, there is no doubt which UFO type is hot right now. Indeed, it has been number one for quite some while (probably back to the 'Silent Vulcan' reports featured in NUN back in 1978 - so named because the huge triangular objects witnessed over the midlands were like a vulcan bomber without the accompanying car-splitting racket).

From the Belgian wave in 1989/1990 to the gigantic UFOs seen over the UK around the same time period (which often were - although few people seem to believe it - mid-air refuelling exercises involving the USAF preparing to bomb Libya) the triangle motif has come to dominate the field in Europe.

So many have been the sightings in the Peak District that the Derby group PRA are almost drowning beneath paperwork about them. Then - in late 1995 - the triangle moved to the Lancashire coast and from Southport to Morecambe we have been swamped with sightings of this latest flying thingy.

As regular readers will know the debate ensuing is whether these are genuine UFOs (that is alien spacecraft) or some kind of secret aircraft being built by British Aerospace (BAe) at their plant at Warton. This sits on the Ribble Estuary (ironically only a mile or so from the site of this summer's open golf championship and this November's big UFO conference in Lytham). It is - coincidentally or not - slap bang in the middle of any map showing the Lancashire coast sightings.

According to BAe sources talking to UFOlogists in January the project is called HALO (High Agility, Low Observability) and is a UK version of stealth, possibly utilising Harrier jump jet technology to allow for vertical take off and landing. Unsurprisingly a stealth jet capable of hovering is going to give the natives a few UFO sightings.

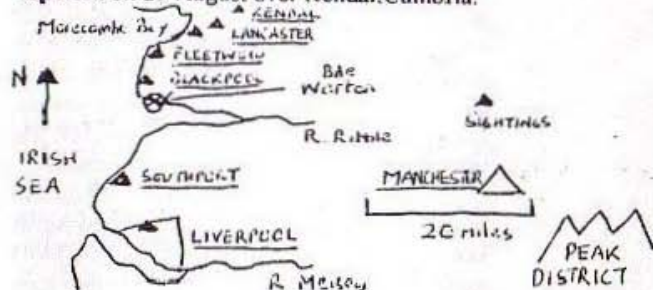
Of course, British Aerospace are having none of this. Warton fly Hawk trainers and other jets, plus prototype Eurofighters. They have no HALOs flying yet and are not to blame for any UFOs seen. Full stop.

But when a jet crashed in October a few feet off the end of a crowded beach at Blackpool during party conference season Warton explained it was a routine mishap. At first. Only later did it emerge that the jet was testing secret equipment. So those who say no secret plane is going to fly over one of the most densely populated parts of the UK should ponder that news. The UFO sightings that get reported may well work to the advantage of BAe. After all, who is going to take them too seriously save a few UFO buffs?

We have featured some of the triangle sightings in NUN recently. A video was taken in Morecambe of one in January. Another was captured on film in Knotty Ash, Liverpool, in February (see last issue). Some Southport sightings are reported later in this issue. And yet the events continue.

One of the most recent was on 17 September 1996 at 06.45 and involved the usual object glinting silver as it spiralled downwards from the sky, hovered over the sea wall and then shot off northwards toward Morecambe Bay. This was at Rossall, between Fleetwood and Cleveleys, half a mile from where I was then fast asleep in bed! Curses.

An even more spectacular event was reported on 29 August over Kendal, Cumbria.



This involved 20 witnesses, many of whom were interviewed by the Lancashire UFO Society. They describe a black triangle performing aerobatics over the town at 21.15 and very unusual circumstances surrounding the incident. Apparently the atmospheric conditions changed during the sighting, as if a violent storm were imminent. This despite the fact that the night was otherwise calm and clear. There were also reports of a low frequency humming sound and of radios, television sets and watches suffering strange interference whilst the triangle hovered.

These are not the only instances of electrical disturbance. Power outages in Morecambe and Fleetwood during winter 1995/1996 have been tied in with triangle sightings - whether by coincidence or not.

Tim Matthews of the Lancashire UFO Society has produced a fascinating report on his groups investigations into the Lancashire sightings. Entitled *Stealth, Lies and Videotape* it assesses the options (real UFO or secret plane) and exposes some interesting facts - such as the new security measures put in force on a remote part of the Warton complex.

To get hold of a copy write to Tim at:
PO Box 73 Lancaster LA1 1GZ

Since publication in September, Tim tells me of a remarkable new development. This involves a man who has been able to access sophisticated radar imagery and thus observed what appear to be objects leaving Warton and performing extraordinary manoeuvres. These are such extremes of G force that none of the known aircraft being built at the plant can reproduce the motions - at least not if a pilot hopes to survive.

At the moment I am not going to say any more about this as the matter is still under investigation. But Tim has dates and times of tests and attempts will be made to correlate with triangle sightings. There are other sound reasons why no further details of this development can be revealed for now. But this is a story that is certainly gaining momentum.

One possibility is that a sophisticated drone - a sort of remote controlled prototype HALO - is responsible.

In September Granada TV ran a two-part report on the Lancashire coast triangle sightings and interviewed some of the witnesses and showed some of the video footage. Whilst I was working with Granada on this project a fascinating new twist occurred. Warton - after initially seeming to confirm the HALO project as real (although insisting nothing was off the drawing board as yet - nor likely to be before the 21st century) flatly denied that they had even heard of the acronym HALO! In which case - where did it come from?

To UFOlogists of the north-west Warton is beginning to gain a reputation not unlike that of Area 51 in the Nevada desert. Of course, there is a whopping difference between the remote wilds of that US desert and the far from unpopulated Lancashire coast - swarming with tourists (and politicians) during the summer. Of course, said 'UFO' could have the advantage of flying out to sea (as most sightings appear to suggest). But could any organisation really afford to test fly something revolutionary in an area where the slightest mistake could end any secrecy?

Major articles elsewhere

UFO Times Jun & Aug 96 With sub
BM BUFORA London WC1N 3XX

A new upmarket design looks very smart. Andy Roberts involvement adds bite. It is certainly a better magazine these days.

June has the latest on Roswell and that film. Plus a look at the recent Mexican wave.

August has Andy's demolition of Nick Pope and Kevin McClure attacking BUFORA re hypnotic regression - oddly without BUFORA defending its record (ie the ban on its use!)

Magonia 57 £5 for 4 (To John Rimmer)

5 James Terrace London SW14 8HB

The usual incisive critique of everyone and everything, from Ancient Astronauts, to solving the Father Gill sighting and a running battle with Manchester group MAPIT, of whom Magonia appear to think not a lot.

Strange Daze 10 £4 for 4 (To Dave Newton)

Unit 21 East Cheap Newcastle NE6 5UA

Always fun, with cases and comment from Tyneside and the usual defence of BUFORAs outgoing director of investigations.

OVNI Sep £14.40 for 12 (Members free)

94 The Circle Sinfen Derby DE24 9HR

Always full of news and sightings from the East Midlands and if you live in that area well worth joining PRA to get hold of.

EMUFORA 11 £5 for 4

8 Roosa Close Bulwell Nottingham NG6 7BL

The other East Midlands group also has its own mag. Carries a lot of ET stuff from the net and USA. Eg an interview with Bob Lazar.

Pegasus Vol 6/1 £2 per copy

126 Grange Rd Guildford GU2 6QP

Also carries much from the USA. I have been criticised before for saying this mag has an ET bent. So I'll just say that this issue is the place for an interview with Zecharia Sitchin, human mutilation stories, a look at the new world order and stuff about reptilian aliens.

IUFOPRA Journal Summer No Price given

Box 3070 Whitehall Dublin 9 Eire

A packed issue with lots of variety from Ireland. From Irish sightings to the life on mars discovery. Clinton's comments on Roswell and fascinating photos and news on the latest US revelations about novel aircraft. An article on spontaneous human combustion.

World UFO Journal 11 No Price given
16 Newton Green Gt Dunmow CM6 1DU
Lots of news cuttings plus assorted letters. Glad to see the mag did not fall for the Italian UFO in a hangar case - although not realising that it was a hoax perpetrated by Fortean Times!!!

IUR Summer 1996 CUFOS \$30 US for 6
2457 W Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659
Eddie Bullard presents his latest research into whether different abduction researchers effect the data they produce through their differing methodologies. Also a look at an opinion survey on beliefs about UFOs in Germany.

MUFON Journal \$30 US for 12
103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin TX 78155-4099
Jun:- Full report on the analysis of a piece of metal said to be from the Roswell crash and sent to a museum. Seemingly a hoax. Plus a fascinating look at patterns in UFO waves.

Just Cause June \$20 US for 4
CAUS Box 176 Stoneham MA 02180
Full report on the new NSA file release.

Ley Hunter 125 £7 for 3
Box 258 Cheltenham Glos GL53 0HR
New format with Danny Sullivan as editor. Terence Meaden is back with a new look at vortices. Albert Budden has a moan about UFOlogy and UFOlogists.

Fortean Times Sep £2.20 in shops
Box 2409 London NW5 4NP
Fascinating, brave (and foolhardy?) piece on the life and times of the mysterious UFOlogist Dr Henry Azadhel - who has money and allegedly threatened to sue Tim Good. So if this is the last FT to appear, you know why.

Dead of Night 9 £10 for 6
156 Bolton Rd E New Ferry L62 4RY
Pot pourri of strange stuff from alien animals to a rag bag of curses. A series of items on the UFO cover-up also included, although not too accurate about my BBC documentary (citing as it does a misleading Daily Mail story!)

The Skeptic 10/1 £14 for 6
Box 475 Manchester M60 2TH
Skeptical stuff about the brain, mind, UFOs - oh and profound things to say about Pink Floyd.

Folklore Frontiers 27 £6 for 4 (P Screeton)
5 Egton Dr Hartlepool TS25 2AT
Fascinating gaggle of modern folktales but marred by constantly sexist covers.

CIRCULAR LOGIC

Believe it or not, crop circles are living proof of life after death. Or, as Doug and Dave would say, why the heck did we bother?

1996 was chock a block with the most exotic collection of pretty patterns ever sprinkled over Wessex. You either believe these are the product of an alien intelligence or a plea from a sick earth (no doubt plus a dozen impossible things before breakfast) or you admire the artistic handiwork of those responsible. I know where my money lays.

Not that this stops the cerealogists continue to meet, talk, write and debate the mystery that never was. Or maybe it has now created itself out of sheer necessity? Regardless of whether you think circles are extraordinary, important, intriguing, or just a laugh, there are two sensible magazines which let you read all about the latest happenings.

The Circular (£15 for 4 via Hillview Abbots Ann Andover SP11 7BA) is the glossy journal of the CCCS. It has a nice diversity of articles (from serious research to the frankly daft) and lots of nice photos of hoaxes (er, sorry, this years circles).

I must admit I am beginning to wonder what the point is of recording all of these obviously artificial patterns. To be honest what goes on in crop circle land these days seems to have about as much global impact as train spotting. However, that is not to entirely rule out the occasional glimmers of interesting activity that do appear. There are from time to time intriguing stories and photographs that might relate to anomalous earth energies and have relevance to UFOs.

The Crop Watcher (£6 for 4 via P Fuller 3 Selborne Ct Tavistock Close Romsey Hants SO51 7TY) has always been sceptical and, some might say, has even less point in surviving. Others might argue that recording the excesses of cerealogy is still a useful social function, although TCW has (wisely) featured increasing UFO coverage of late in any case. Besides Paul Fullers no nonsense approach is worth a look any day.

If anyone can establish that there are genuine atmospheric phenomena behind some cases you'll find it here - in the historical and international data cautiously reviewed. The current issue (no 28) has an important follow through on the 1964 'crop circle' from Penrith discovered by Nick Redfern in PRO files (see NUN 172). Paul Fullers investigation - including site photos - enhances the value of this significant case.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT

UFO - A deadly concealment Derek Sheffield
Blundford, 1996 276 pp illus £9.99

What to make of this book? In analogy its a bit like a fly buzzing around your living room. At first it's fascinating, watching it flit to and fro. Then you decide to take action, corner it with a newspaper and - wham! - it gets away. So you corner it again - and it gets away. So you corner it again - and, well you see what I mean. Fascination turns rapidly to frustration. If you then decide to contact the United Nations to proclaim that the fly is really a robot from the planet Zog and your government knows it but will never admit to the truth - then I suspect most folk by this point will be rooting for the fly.

Ostensibly Sheffield's book is about the Belgian wave of sightings from November 1989 through until March 1990. But in truth it is more concerned with the authors painstaking and (some may feel) obsessive attempts to convince politicians, military officers, Uncle Tom Cobbley and all, that these cases prove the universe has changed forever.

Derek Sheffield claims that he heard about the wave via a French newspaper in 1992. Having once written a book about philosophy which set out to disprove black holes, evolution, and so forth he decided to mount an investigation into this case. Whether he actually went to Belgium or did any first hand research is not clear. Indeed, such basic uncertainty on key facts is one of the major problems of this book. However, what Mr Sheffield is indisputably good at is writing letters and these pages are awash with them.

Frankly, what he has to tell us about the sightings would fill the first 50 pages of the book. The rest are simply letters to his MP, his Euro MP, this big wig, that irrelevant person and so on - and on. The duplication and fastidiousness that fills them all is staggering.

Not that they are printed quite in full. He stresses that he is not a UFOlogist nor into the paranormal and only wanted to study the hard facts of the radar-visual and other encounters. To that end he appears openly distrustful of British UFO groups and steered clear of them on the grounds that Nick Pope at the MoD had suggested he contact various ones. To him that meant something was up.

Nick (given a rough deal) suggested a Tim Good book as one source of data on the wave, but reference to that was excised by the author when he sent the letter on to the EEC.

If I read correctly, its because the title smacked of science-fiction, which is why the MoD mentioned it, so that the EEC would not take pleas for action seriously. Not that material he sent to the EEC is perfect. Owing to a limited knowledge of UFOs the author tells Euros that ace ETH supporter Donald Keyhoe was on the CIAs Robertson panel.

What little there is about the Belgian wave is not without interest (eg the full transcript of the 30/31 March 1990 jet intercept encounter). But it is swamped by the tedious pile of letters to the extent that I am astonished at the publishers for not getting a tighter grip on the text.

Maybe they got too concerned about what Nick Pope might say. Unfairly in my view - he appears as a sort of government agent spreading disinformation. The saga of letters to and from Sheffield to him (pp 196 - 202) left me utterly sympathetic with the MoD man, who tried his level best to be helpful. I have to say he is a born diplomat and I would have given up replying to the author long before Nick had to say that there was little point in continuing the dialogue!

Sheffield tells us of his own UFO sighting in 1962: although to me it sounds like a high altitude weather balloon. Unfortunately, because of making this suggestion I am now bound to be under suspicion as a government spy, so I will maske clear that I really think it was an ET spaceship (disguised as a weather balloon).

The author's tenacity and sheer bravado stop the book from flagging and there is interest in seeing an outsider try to unravel one of our most famous recent cases. Indeed, he made me see some aspects of it in a new light. As some readers will know I suspect that some of the Belgian sightings were mid-air refuelling exercises prior to the long range bombing raids on Libya (a theory that Derek Sheffield has probably never even heard). But I had not really contemplated the idea that some of the earlier sightings might be laser light shows. Now - from these accounts - I would say that is a real possibility.

Undoubtedly, some of what went on in Belgium during those months was important and unexplained; although most, I suspect, was not. Equally, some of this book is useful - but most, I suspect, is not. Meantime - if you get a letter from Derek Sheffield why not send it back unopened from some exotic spot. I would love his chapter on the resulting 'GPO' probe in any sequel book, based on the saga of his lost letter to former President Jimmy Carter!

The Paranormal Anthony North
Blandford, 1996 242 pp some ills £16.99

Readers may be most familiar with Tony North via his long running magazine 'Rattlers Tales', which prints a jamboree of letters, short articles and stories - often with a paranormal bent. This is his first book, after years of trying, for which I congratulate him.

Unfortunately, there is not really anything about UFOs in here. It is a collection of essays on a diverse range of paranormal topics from brain and consciousness to hypnosis, ESP, timeslips and so forth.

All of them read well and they are short enough to be digested one at a time whenever you feel like dipping. There is not too much in here particularly original, but equally there is a fair bit of a good sense.

Overall, it is a nice introduction to the field of mind and the abnormal phenomena related to it. Today it is somewhat unusual to find an assuming book which does not really have a theme or agenda pushing you in one direction. Instead this book really sets out one person's thoughts about a whole series of fascinating topics - and that's quite refreshing.

It won't set the bookshops alight, and at this price you may prefer to read a library copy or await the hoped-for softback. But if finances permit then you are sure to find something to set you thinking. What more can you really ask of a book these days?

Also published is the best by a long way (so far) of a large series of reissues begun this summer by Souvenir Press. They come under the title 'Mysteries of the Universe'. Each book is from 20-25 years ago and so introduces work by the likes of Eric von Daniken and Charles Berlitz to a whole new audience. Many of them creak like the ark after its decommissioning, but journalist John Fuller's books about the paranormal during the 1960's and 1970's were always a terrific read. His study of the Betty and Barney Hill abduction is still a great UFO book and this one - *The ghost of flight 401* - is one of the best told modern day ghost investigations. His quest to find out why the crew of an L-1011 jet killed in a 1972 crash were haunting other Eastern Airlines planes in 'friendly' fashion is not fully satisfying, but it represents a really unusual tale and as always very well told. I warmly recommended it to newcomers at just £6.99 for 318 pp. Give us more titles like this one, please, Souvenir, and less of the twaddle that has been filling this series up until now!

New Welsh Wonders
Investigations by Margaret Fry

UFOs colour clouds:- In November 1985 at Taff Well, Cardiff six lights in two triangles were seen flying side by side. The time was 19.45 to 20.00. They moved silently over rooftops on a very overcast evening with rain. As the objects passed by the clouds were turned a brownish pink - presumably as a result of the reflected glow. Witnessed by man and girlfriend from his parents home.

Star chaser:- On 3 January 1995 at Cwbran, Gwent, a 14 year old described seeing a light 'bigger and brighter than a star' which was chasing in and out of the star background. It was later seen lower down and moving much faster than a jet aircraft.

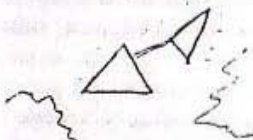
Case 9540:- On 6 January 1995 at Borth, Dyfed a man and his son observed five lights that were travelling like a rocket and heading towards Llantrisant Common. The time was 22.00 and there was no sound.

Case 9541:- On 18 January 1995 in Aberporth, Dyfed, an 11 year old boy reported an unusual sighting. Two UFOs were seen to shoot across the sky, then they returned and moved from one place to another. One light was described as huge and its speed as zooming. The time was 22.42.

Case 9542:- Finally, on an unknown date at the end of January 1995 a man and his girlfriend spotted something in the sky near Rhos, Wrexham in Clwyd. The object was shaped like a football and was hovering over an area known as Flood. When they arrived about 10 other people were there watching the light. It is not recorded how it disappeared.

Margaret also reports a case from the summer of 1969 which occurred on the road between Chippenham and Bristol. The witness and her mother spotted two triangles joined to-

-gether by a short tube. They appeared silvery against the sunny sky and were moving between clouds. Although she tried to bring it to the attention of her father he was unable up to look up because he was driving. The tube was thin and transparent. It vanished into a small cloud. This is a very unusual type of UFO.



Brief Cases

6212 January 1962

Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands 13.10

JS wants to know if anybody else saw what he did on a winters day 35 years ago! He was in Mill Street looking up the hill when a disc like an upturned dinner plate appeared. Coloured reddish/grey it was hovering and spinning. Then it moved very fast and hovered over Coleshill Road, before returning to its first position, hovered briefly there again and shot off at great speed climbing high into the sky.

Another umbilical cord UFO

9543 7 December 1995 Inv: Primus

Airdrie, Scotland 15.00

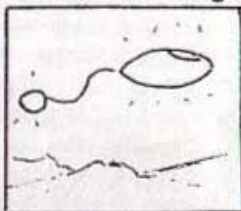
Two nice surprises included with this report.

Firstly, a welcome back to Iain Johnston (who some readers may recall as a regular contributor to UFO Brigantia a while back). Hes now back in action in Scotland and has launched a group called Primus (see page 16). He investigated this case with David Stephenson.

Secondly, no sooner had I written the notes on the previous page about the uniqueness of the sighting of two UFOs linked together by a sort of umbilical cord than up pops another of these virtually unheard of cases. Synchronicity, or what?

Mr A was standing outside his house on a fine sunny day when he saw a bright silver oval in the SW.

It was linked by a tube or cable to a smaller & rounder object. He called to his wife - they both watched it for a few minutes and then the small object suddenly disappeared. At the same time the larger one seemed to move away into the distance. The tube was described as being hazy and irregular and seemed to sag at times.



Another witness in the town saw the phenomenon as well.

Possibilities that occur - such as an aircraft refuelling exercise - seem negated by the fact that the objects were stationary for too long. A tethered balloon seems an option but the witnesses are adamant this was not the case. Primus regard the case as unexplained.

Any bright ideas anyone?

Anniversary triangle encounter

9608 24 February 1979 Inv: MARA

Banks, Southport, Merseyside 03.00

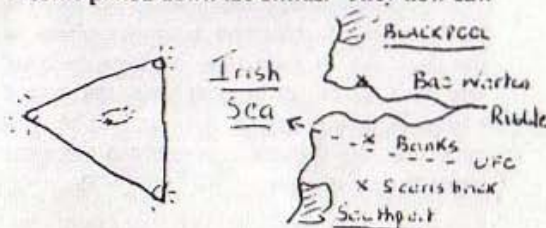
One of the classic cases in north-west UFO history occurred at 02.45 on 24 February 1979 when an object landed in a quarry at Bacup and what may have been a military jet chased it across Lancashire towards the central pier in Blackpool - where both it and the jet were apparently seen by a security guard at the Oz nightclub. Meanwhile a caravan park at Scarisbrick had suffered damage when a very noisy object shook doors and windows - this being possibly the intercept jet using afterburner in hot pursuit.

Now, on the 17th anniversary - almost to the minute - comes a new close encounter with the north-west's latest phenomenon - the hovering triangle with intriguing similarities. The location is also very close to Scarisbrick. Indeed, any glance at the map will show that Banks is so named as it is on the banks of the River Ribble estuary only seconds as the HALO flies from our old friend BAe Warton!

This case has been well investigated by Anthony Eccles and Penny Hoyte of MARA and is probably the best recorded of the many 1996 sightings of this object. The witnesses - Mr and Mrs C and their 20 year old son - are well educated and credible.

Mrs C woke first to hear an extremely loud noise and severe vibration that shook the house via a vent in the bedroom. It was clearly coming from nearby. On the landing the noise was even louder and opening her sons back bedroom to wake him it became almost deafening.

He recalls how the house was shaking - so he pulled down the blinds. They now saw



a large triangular object hovering over fields. Mrs C went downstairs for a better look. It had a light in each corner (white or red/green) and a bright central glow. The triangle was dark. Mr C also woke to see it.

After between five to ten minutes the object moved away westwards (out to sea) and then accelerated at an 'unbelievable speed' and was gone.

The witnesses say that the noise was terrifying. The son likened it to a drill in his head. Mrs C said she felt as if the thing were going to explode.

On 12 March Air Staff 2A at the MoD denied any knowledge of any sightings or military exercises. Warton (and other military bases) also said they had no activity.

It is not clear from the report if the possibility of a police or air/sea rescue helicopter was checked out. This seems the only feasible source of so much noise - but the local newspaper carried the story soon after and it seems probable that any police activity would have quickly been identified.

This has to leave one suspicious about Warton - especially given its proximity.

Case 9609 25 July 1996

Stenhousemuir, Scotland early evening

A, her son, D, boyfriend, J, and his mother, C were preparing to go out to Glasgow when A sounded the car horn to bring the others outside. They all then saw a brightly coloured object hovering over some nearby fields and surrounded by flashing lights. It was in the direction of Denny.

They tried to walk towards the object but it moved away so fast that it seemed to vanish almost in a flash. They say that it did not resemble anything they had ever seen before and was definitely not an aircraft or helicopter.

Case 9610 2 August 1996

Raglan, Wales 20.00

A motorist on the A40 at the services near Monmouth observed a strange object in the dusk sky. It seemed to be hanging there and was black in colour with flat, ragged edges. In size it appeared to be similar to a small car. He thought it resembled the solar panel from a satellite.

A load of cobblers

Case 9611 11 August 1996

Farr, Scotland 21.20

Villagers in Farr, near Strathnairn, including local cobblers spotted something peculiar in the sky.

J was heading from Inverness to pick up his wife - a nurse - when it appeared and first seemed to be an aircraft. But then it became apparent that the object was stationary.

It had a dim orange light at the rear and was wedge shaped. It hung there for an hour as the villagers looked on. As darkness fell what appeared to be poles came out of the side making it appear a little like a sledge. As daylight vanished the object rose upwards and was gone.

J said that the Tornado jets that often fly up the Strath were inactive that day. He wonders if there was a connection with the sudden appearance of the UFO.

When the boat comes in

Case 9612 14 August 1996

Largs, Scotland 03.55

This case is certainly different. Mrs K awoke for a drink of water to hear the house filled with a humming sound that was so loud it was as if she was standing next to an electricity sub-station, she reports.

Pulling back the curtains she instinctively looked upwards for the source of the noise, but nothing was there. Instead out to sea the island of Cumbrae appeared to be glowing. It was literally silhouetted in white light. As she was looking south west she knew this was not an effect of the sunrise.

At about 04.10 the humming and the glow gradually faded away and all became dark again.

This case is a classic illustration of how not to take anything for granted. It certainly has all the hallmarks of a fascinating close encounter. This seemed assured when local police confirmed they had no reports and the local helicopter pilot confirmed he had landed at 03.30 after a sea rescue during which he had seen nothing unusual.

But that is not allowing for the tenacity of the local paper (the Largs and Millport Weekly News). They managed to solve this case by the application of lateral thinking and detective work that should be a model to any UFOlogist.

The UFO was, in fact, the P&O cruise ship the Royal Princess - en route from Iceland to Waterford in Ireland, then sailing on the far side of Cumbrae. Presumably the glow and hum were the result of the many lights aboard and the sound of the ships distant engines.

I do not recall a UFO sighting ever being resolved in quite this way before and it does show you that a UFOlogist's motto ought to be - *never say never*. Every case is potentially explicable, perhaps in the most unexpected manner. Don't presume otherwise.

*Fire chiefs chase UFO crash over Wigan
Case 9613 16 August 1996
Hindley Green, Wigan, Lancs 20.00*

Three fire engines and a police helicopter were mobilised in response to a 999 call that an object - possibly an aircraft - had crashed in flames near Hindley Green.

Residents of Richmond Road saw what appeared to be a small plane with smoke trailing from it in the direction of Bolton. Some of the local children pursued it on mountain bikes whilst the adults phoned the emergency services. The children lost it in the distance but saw it disintegrate into a fireball with pieces falling off.

Fire teams from Hindley, Atherton and Wigan rushed to the scene whilst the Greater Manchester police helicopter searched fields. Nothing was found; although the chief fire officer spoke about an 'oily smell'. After an hour the search was cancelled and the object was officially logged as a UFO. This naturally provoked considerable local media speculation about the matter.

But was it a UFO? The only possibility the emergency services looked into was a hot air balloon. None were flying. The police, possibly to get the media and talk of spaceships off their backs, suggested that the witnesses had seen an unusually red sunset and been fooled by that. This theory had initially been suggested by the Civil Aviation Authority after confirming that no aircraft were missing or in trouble.

However, mid August is a peak time for meteor sightings. Indeed at 3am that same day there was a brilliant bolide that created UFO sightings. Was that what was witnessed here? Both meteors and space junk re-entries have led to similar calls out of local fire brigades - eg when Cosmos 1968 burnt up over Britain on 31 December 1978 and dozens of emergency services were set into action in response.

Another possibility is a home made hot air balloon. Kids launch these as a joke using candles and bin bags and they dribble burning plastic to the ground looking as if they are burning or breaking up. If you have seen some of the Gulf Breeze videos taken from the Pensacola Bay Bridge (eg on the recent 'Strange but True? TV special) then you will have seen this effect - for many of those 'UFOs' are, in fact, home made hot air balloons.

A final option occurred to me in early October when I chanced to see a fascinating phenomenon over Rossall, Fleetwood.

What I saw seemed to be an aircraft on fire trailing smoke and falling from the sky. I only realised my error when I noticed that the smoke was drifting more rapidly than the clouds - indicating that the object was far lower (and thus smaller) than I had estimated.

This 'UFO' was simultaneously witnessed by a number of children from a nearby school who reported it to the local paper. The story even made 'Psychic News' two weeks later - suggesting that Fleetwood was now agog with UFO sightings! Sadly, as neither the local paper nor Psychic News bothered to check (but I did) the invading UFO was, as I had suspected, simply a flare. I had not seen one launched in daylight before.

Possibly this was also what the residents of Hindley Green saw that evening.

*Yet another Peak triangle
Case 9615 14 September 1996
Macclesfield, Cheshire 11.50*

To end on yet another encounter with the hovering triangle over its second home (apart from the Lancashire coast) - the Peak District. This is one of the rarer daylight sightings.

The witness is a retired airline worker who is very familiar with all kinds of air traffic. She was utterly baffled by what she saw from the rear of her home - looking NE towards Chinley and the Derbyshire hills.

The object was grey in colour and had brilliant lights on each point of the triangle (the pattern which by now should be very familiar). Indeed she was struck by how unnaturally brilliant these corner lights were.

Having seen many aircraft pass over the Pennines on their way into Manchester she knew immediately that this was different.

After watching the object remain stationary and silent for 3 - 4 minutes she recalled that she had a pair of binoculars inside and went to collect them. However, she was distracted because her front doorbell rang, then the phone. By the time she got back outside the object had disappeared.

Phenomenal Venture

Group SERM have launched their own magazine - *Phenomenal News*.

Edited by Viv Alexander and Ron Halliday it looks at a wide range of strange events of all sorts (from UFOs to dowsing and precognition). Naturally it focus on happenings north of the border.

The Summer issue even has a report on spontaneous human invisibility - the subject briefly introduced in the last NUN (p 12) and which I thought was totally unique to the story there presented. Seems I was wrong and a whole new paranormal phenomenon is apparently being reported far and wide. The article in PN describes a number of cases - mostly from the USA. They have been occurring since 1994.

Is this like crop circles - a phenomenon springing up seemingly out of nowhere? If you have any news about people who find themselves becoming invisible (that is disappearing from the perspective of others who are with them and seem not to be able to see them for a period of time) - then let us know so that we can chart this new mystery.

Meanwhile, *Phenomenal News* is well worth a look at £4 for 4. Cheques should be made payable to R Halliday via SERM address (as opposite).

Have you heard the Voice?

UFOlogy is buzzing as I close this issue with talk of the mysterious source known as 'The Voice'. This irregular mail out comes from Barry King - who during the 1970's was very well known for his superb investigations with Andy Collins. They were behind classic cases such as the Aveley abduction (Britains first CE4 from 1974) and their reports figured prominently in the UFO literature.

Andy went on to become a leading light of the psychic questing and earth mysteries field and has published a number of successful books. Barry took a back seat until his recent revival as author of these reports.

Barry King had always claimed weird experiences - with MIB encounters and alien contacts being described by him years ago. Now he seems to have been selected by a 'source' in the intelligence community to act as a mouthpiece - the voice - to try to bring out the truth about undercover goings on.

It is difficult to know what to make of all this. Barry comes over as a rational, sensible chap and those who have heard what he has to say have often been impressed. But there are some disconcerted by being told that they are under surveillance because of their UFO interest and it can be hard to know where caution and natural curiosity ends and paranoia begins. Indeed I wonder about the effects of warning named individuals (set out by him in lists) that they are under scrutiny from 'them' and should watch their backs.

Mixed in with claims about the NSA, silencers, maps of underground tunnels and campaigning that Britain is America's 51st state come graphic warnings about big black triangles (here described as *VATO's firefly* - coming to your area soon to abduct more innocent citizens).

Barry seems keen to recruit new readers and does not charge for 'The Voice'. So, if you want to keep up with this intriguing set of monographs - which certainly offer lots for you to think about - write to :-
The Voice 27 The Green Melbourne
Chelmsford Essex CM1 2BQ

AUTUMN EVENTS

Two day international event organised by LAPIS on Sat/Sun 16/17 November at the Lowther Pavillion, Lytham, near Blackpool. Speakers inc:- Nick Pope, Derrel Sims, Philip Mantle, Jenny Randles. £12 per day or £20 for both. Call 01253-391704

One day UFO extravaganza organised by Extreme Events on Sun 15 December at the New Trinity Centre, Bristol. Noon to 9pm. Featuring Nick Pope, Colin Andrews, Peter Hough, Jenny Randles plus huge X files memorabilia and lightshow - covering abductions, the cover up, UFO theories and crop circles. For details call:- 01380-859554

Local groups in the north

Scotland

SRUFO 129 Langton Vw East Calder EH51 0RE
SEMR 35 Fountain Rd Bridge of Allan FK9 4AU
PRIMUS 159 Park Road Airdrie ML6 9TD

North East

NUFOR1 14 Loughmire Drive Newcastle NE13 6JW
CONNECT 5 Stocks Hill Menston Ilkley LS29 6ND

North West

NUFOIG 89 Bare Lane Morecambe LA4 6RN
LAPIS 293 Devonshire Rd Blackpool FY2 0TW
MARA 52 Hawthorne Ave Liverpool L26 9ND
NARO * 2 Grosvenor Rd Congleton CW12 4PG

(*NUFON files with NARO- for access call 01942-604263)

North Midlands

FRA 94 The Circle Salford Derby DE24 9HR
GREEN DRAGON 24 Nab Hill Dr Leek ST13 8EE
EMUFORA 8 Roosa Close Nottingham NG6 7BL

South Midlands

PARASRCII 79 Sandringham Rd Stourbridge DY8 5HL
HURG 20 Ryelands Street Hereford HR4 9LB

Wales

FEDERATION Box 43 Rhyl Clwyd LL18 1YW